

Warden Message US Embassy Lusaka September 14, 2005

This message is intended for all American citizens visiting or residing in Zambia. Since some people may not have provided email addresses to the Consular Section I would like to ask the wardens to please distribute the following notice to all American citizens within your registration zone as soon as possible. Thank you.

Counterfeit U.S. and Zambian currency has recently been distributed on several occasions in Lusaka. Most of these incidents involved money exchanged at Bureaux de Change in the Cairo Road area. Counterfeit 50,000 ZKW and \$100 USD bills were passed. The U.S. Embassy advises Americans to avoid the Bureaux de Change of Cairo Road area, and to exchange their money at known, reputable banks and/or Bureaux de Change. In addition, there have been two armed robberies, one involving a fatality, related to Bureaux de Change, along Cairo Road. Because of the dangers of the Cairo Road area (including Chachacha, Freedom Way, and Lumumba Roads), the U.S. Embassy encourages Americans to avoid the area.

Citizens should exercise caution while exchanging money, carrying cash, and using ATMs. Criminals often watch these locations looking for targets of opportunity. American citizens are advised to inspect currency closely before leaving Bureaux de Change. More information on how to detect counterfeit U.S. currency is available online at http://www.secretservice.gov/know_your_money.shtml.

If you are the victim of a crime while overseas, in addition to reporting to local police, please contact the U.S. Embassy for assistance. The Embassy staff can, for example, assist you to find appropriate medical care, contact family members or friends and explain how funds could be transferred. Although the investigation and prosecution of the crime is solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and to find an attorney if needed. See our information on Victims of Crime at http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies_1748.html.

For the latest security information, Americans living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet web site at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Cautions, Public Announcements, and Travel Warnings can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S., or, for callers outside the U.S. and Canada, a regular toll line at **1-202-501-4444**. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy is located at the corner of Independence and United Nations Avenues. The mailing address is P.O. Box 31617, Lusaka, Zambia. U.S. citizens may

contact the American Embassy during regular work hours, Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. by dialing 260-1-250-955. For after hours emergencies involving American citizens, please dial 260-1-250-955 extension 1. The fax number is 260-1-252-225. The website is <http://zambia.usembassy.gov>.